


3-1-2003

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Recommended Citation

Vasquez, Daniel W., "Latinos in Connecticut" (2003). *Gastón Institute Publications*. Paper 56.
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The Mauricio Gastón Institute
for Latino Community Development
and Public Policy

Latinos in Connecticut

by Daniel W. Vasquez, Research Associate

The Mauricio Gastón Institute of the University of Massachusetts Boston conducts research on and for the Latino population. A goal is to generate the kind of information and analysis necessary to develop sound public policy, and to improve Latino participation in the policy making process. In an effort to present vital information about Latinos to diverse audiences, the Gastón Institute has produced a series of basic demographic profiles for the states and selected cities of New England, based on the United States Census 2000.

Census 2000 data include changes in the way people were counted. The most significant change is to allow persons to select more than one race, creating a new multiracial category of “two or more races”, but meaning people may not be included in the race with which they most identify. There was, however, no way to choose more than one ethnicity; one must choose either Latino or not. Throughout this profile, numbers reflect Latinos of all races, or non-Latinos by race, with persons of two or more races counted separately. All categorizations are based solely on self-identification. All of this complicates comparisons between 1990 and 2000 data. However, the concepts are similar enough to make trends and patterns clear.

In Connecticut, the general population changes from 1990 to 2000 were (similar to) national and state trends. The population of people of color — African Americans, Asians, Latinos, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders — grew at a higher rate than did the population of non-Hispanic Whites, which actually shrank (see table 1). The total population of Connecticut increased by 3.6%, but its composition changed substantially. Latinos had a larger numerical growth than any other group, increasing by 105,207 or 50.3%, (although both “some other race” and Asians had a higher percent increase). Latinos now represent 9.4% of the population, an increase of 2.9 percentage points and the largest gain of any group. Connecticut has the second largest population of Latinos in New England and the 18th largest in the 50 states.

Table 1

Connecticut - Growth by Ethnicity							
	2000		1990		Growth		Change
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	in Percent
Hispanic or Latino	320,323	9.4	213,116	6.5	107,207	50.3	2.9
White	2,638,845	77.5	2,754,184	83.8	-115,339	-4.2	-6.3
Black or African American	295,571	8.7	260,840	7.9	34,731	13.3	0.7
American Indian and Alaska Native	7,267	0.2	5,950	0.2	1,317	22.1	0.0
Asian ^a	81,564	2.4	49,114	1.5	33,408	68.0	0.9
Pacific Islander ^a	958	0.0					
Some other race	8,141	0.2	3,912	0.1	4,229	108.1	0.1
Two or more races ^b	52,896	1.6					
Total	3,405,565		3,287,116		118,449	3.6	

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

Note: Growth figures will not balance due to the new multiracial category.

^a 'Asian and Pacific Islander' was split for the 2000 census. Growth and changes reflect combined total.

^b There was no equivalent category in the 1990 census.

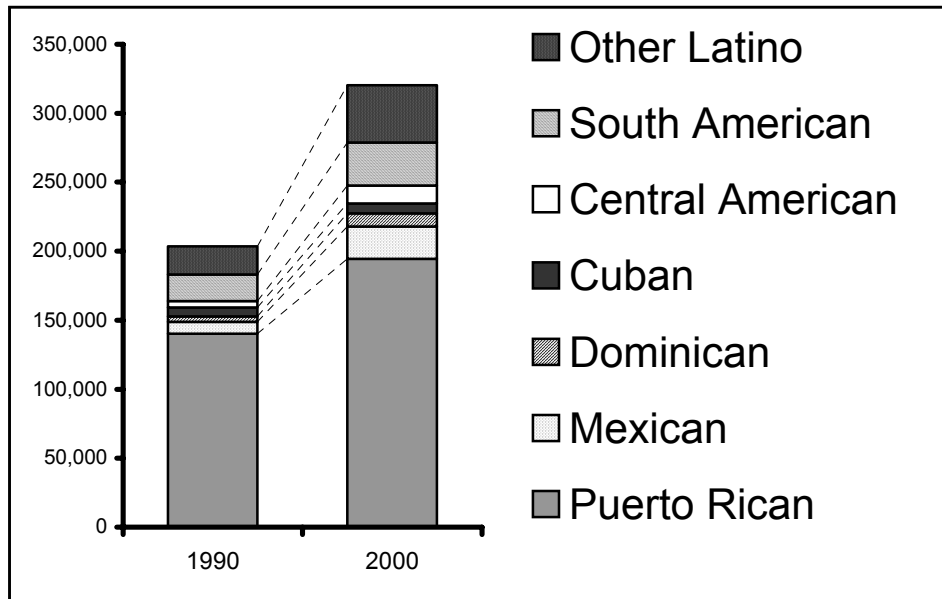
Table 2

Connecticut - National Origin of Latinos						
	2000		1990 ^a		Growth	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	320,323		203,511		116,812	57.4
Mexican	23,484	7.3	8,766	4.3	14,718	167.9
Puerto Rican	194,443	60.7	140,143	68.9	54,300	38.7
Cuban	7,101	2.2	6,276	3.1	825	13.1
Dominican Republic	9,546	3.0	3,946	1.9	5,600	141.9
Other Central American	12,987	4.1	4,842	2.4	8,145	168.2
Other South American	31,310	9.8	19,127	9.4	12,183	63.7
Other Hispanic or Latino	41,452	12.9	20,411	10.0	21,041	103.1

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(b).

^a 1990 figures for nationality are from sample data only and differ from population counts.¹

Figure 1
Connecticut - Growth and Change of the Latino Population



Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

All Latino national-origin groups grew significantly between 1990¹ and 2000. The largest group in Connecticut is Puerto Rican, at 60.7%, followed by “Other” Latinos and “Other” South Americans. “Other” Latinos were the fastest-growing population, growing by 103.1%, a trend seen across the U.S. (see table 2 and figure 1). A person is counted as “Other” if they write in “Spanish” or give an answer that can’t be assigned to a particular nationality (such as “Latino”), or if they identify more than one origin, or leave the answer blank. Future scholarly studies may better describe the composition of this category. The detailed breakdown of Central and South Americans is available at the Census Bureau’s American Fact Finder service, online at: factfinder.census.gov.

Table 3

Connecticut - Households by Tenure							
Latino Headed Households	2000		1990		Growth		Change in Percent
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total Households	90,660		61,580		29,080	47.2	
Owners	25,516	28.1	15,920	25.9	9,596	60.3	2.3
Renters	65,144	71.9	45,660	74.1	19,484	42.7	

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

Latino-headed households are much more likely to rent than to own their home, 71.9% versus 28.1%, although there has been a 2.3% increase in home ownership since 1990 (see table 3). Still, this is much lower than the U.S. average of 68.7%. Although there has been a small growth in the proportion of non-family households, it is still true that most Latinos, 77.3%, live in family households (see table 4). Married couples with children represent 27.3% of Latino-headed households, slightly more than the U.S. average of 24.7%. Families made up of a single female with children account for 24.5% of Latino households, which is greater than the U.S. average of 8.3%, but less than it was in 1990.

Table 4

Connecticut - Family Structure						
	2000		1990		Growth	Change
Latino Headed Households	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	in Percent
Families:	70,074	77.3	48,407	78.6	44.8	-1.3
with related children ^a :						
Married Couple, with children	24,738	27.3	16,732	27.2	47.8	0.1
Female Head, with children	22,197	24.5	15,681	25.5	41.6	-1.0
Male Head, with children	4,238	4.7	2,321	3.8	82.6	0.9
without related children:						
Married Couple, no children	11,951	13.2	9,158	14.9	30.5	-1.7
Single, no children	6,950	7.7	4,515	7.3	53.9	0.3
Non-Family Household	20,586	22.7	13,173	21.4	56.3	1.3
Total Households	90,660		61,580		47.2	

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a).

^a Own or related children under 18 only.

Data Sources:

All available at American Fact Finder [online service]: <http://factfinder.census.gov/>

U.S. Census Bureau:

2000: Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1) 100% Data.

1990(a): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 1 (STF1) 100% Data.

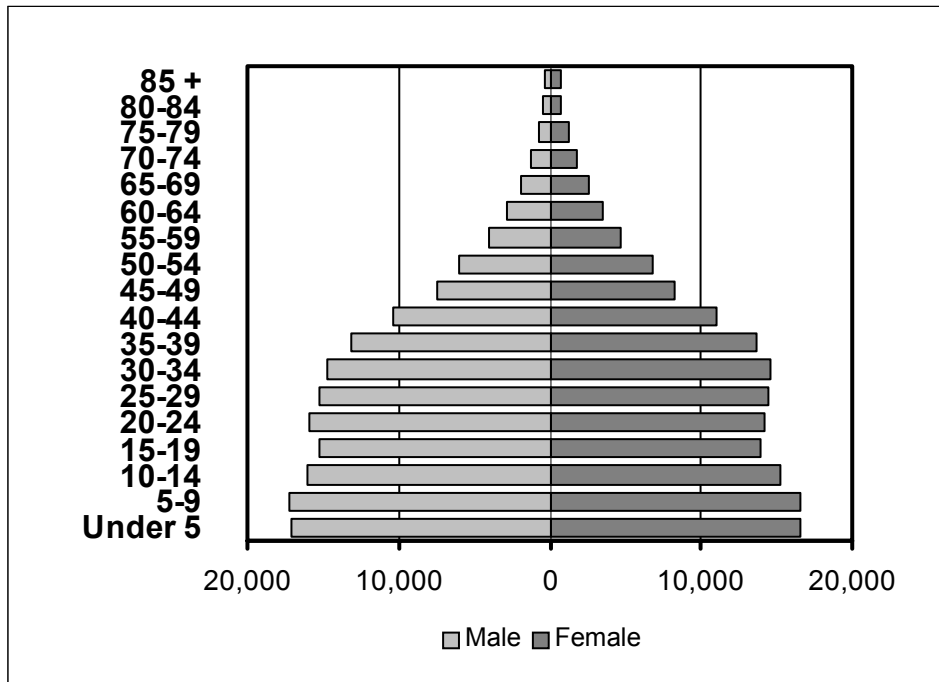
1990(b): 1990 Census Summary Tape File 3 (STF3) Sample Data.

1992: 1990 Census of Population: General Population Characteristics. Washington DC: GPO.

Notes:

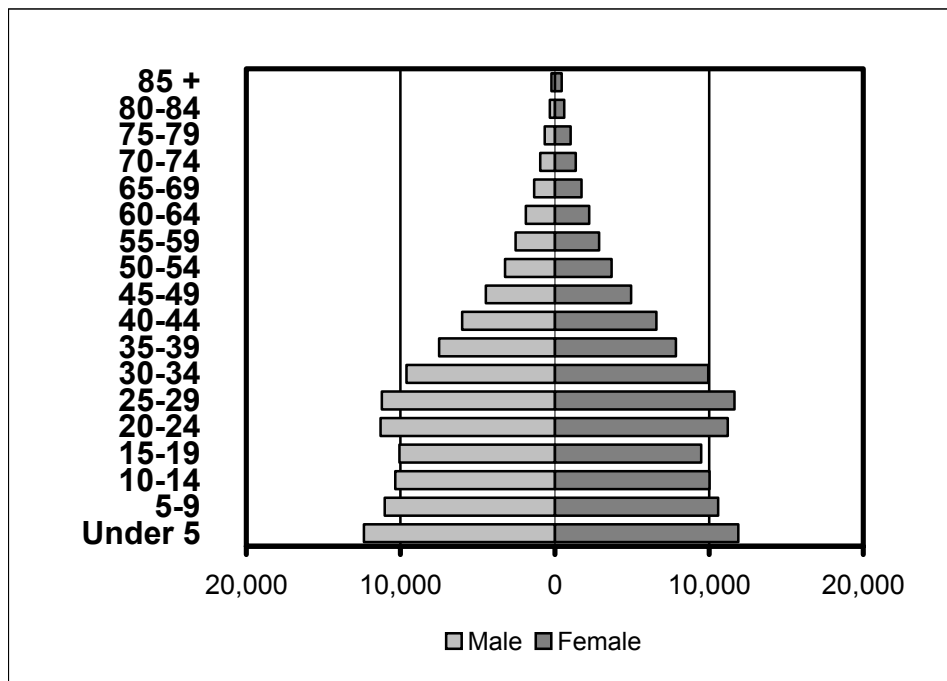
¹ Sample data from 1990 are based on the “Long Form” files. About one person or household in six receives the Long Form Census. The estimates from there do not match the enumerations in the 100% or “Short Form” data. There are sources of error in any census or survey; however the estimates here are accurate enough to note trends and patterns.

Figure 2
Connecticut - Age Profile 2000



Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

Figure 3
Connecticut - Age Profile 1990



Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

The age composition of Latinos in Connecticut has changed. There has been an increase among all age groups, but especially among those in the middle years. Even though there are many more children, the overall Latino population is maturing (see figures 2 and 3).

While the Latino population in Connecticut and in the rest of the country remains relatively young, it is older than it was in 1990. In 2000, 39.9% of Latinos were younger than 20, just slightly fewer than the 40.2% in 1990 (see table 5). The Latino median age of 25.4 is much younger than the overall Connecticut median age of 37.4. Women still tend to be older than men, but the gap closed during the 1990s. In addition to becoming relatively older, both Latinos and Latinas became less concentrated in the 20-29 age group (see tables 6 and 7).

Table 5

Connecticut - Latinos by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	67,478	21.1	45,872	21.5	47.1
10-19	60,347	18.8	39,919	18.7	51.2
20-29	59,686	18.6	45,348	21.3	31.6
30-39	56,012	17.5	34,894	16.4	60.5
40-49	37,163	11.6	22,003	10.3	68.9
50-59	21,642	6.8	12,325	5.8	75.6
60-69	10,817	3.4	7,177	3.4	50.7
70 and over	7,178	2.2	5,578	2.6	28.7
Total	320,323		213,116		50.3
Median Age	25.4		24.6		

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

Table 6

Connecticut - Latino Males by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	34,356	21.5	23,386	22.3	46.9
10-19	31,247	19.5	20,396	19.4	53.2
20-29	31,088	19.4	22,496	21.4	38.2
30-39	27,746	17.3	17,108	16.3	62.2
40-49	17,910	11.2	10,477	10.0	70.9
50-59	10,124	6.3	5,772	5.5	75.4
60-69	4,787	3.0	3,219	3.1	48.7
70 and over	2,762	1.7	2,134	2.0	29.4
Total	160,020		104,988		52.4
Median Age	24.5		23.9		

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.

Table 7

Connecticut - Latina Females by Age					
	2000		1990		Growth
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Under 10 years	33,122	20.7	22,486	20.8	47.3
10-19	29,100	18.2	19,523	18.1	49.1
20-29	28,598	17.8	22,852	21.1	25.1
30-39	28,266	17.6	17,786	16.4	58.9
40-49	19,253	12.0	11,526	10.7	67.0
50-59	11,518	7.2	6,553	6.1	75.8
60-69	6,030	3.8	3,958	3.7	52.3
70 and over	4,416	2.8	3,444	3.2	28.2
Total	160,303		108,128		48.3
Median Age	26.3		25.3		

Sources: Census Bureau: 2000, 1990(a), 1992.